

Wow...the year is off to a great start! First a terrific auction offering at FUN by our friends and long-time supporters at Heritage Currency Auctions of America. I always look forward to this particular auction as this annual event always has a wonderful fractional currency offering. And then just recently, the Annual Chicago Paper Money Expo (CPMX), which continues to grow and offer collectors opportunity to add to their holdings. And while I was a bit disappointed by the small number of fractional lots, I'm always amazed at the other currency items Lyn Knight has in their auctions. I'm sure everyone like myself, has their favorite show. I attended the annual Paper Money show in Houston this year, and while I found lots of interesting items, nothing really jumped right up and said "Buy me...Buy Me!", which is probably just as well, given I've got 3 kids now in college! I'm indeed looking forward to the next few months, and the numerous auctions that are held. Perhaps I'll stumble onto something for a bargain-basement price ... but the looking is fun too!

Going to Memphis?

There are lots of very good reasons to attend this huge paper money collector event held every year in Memphis. Obviously there's the chance that you might spot a note that has something about it that others have missed. You'll also get the chance to see that face that goes along with those e-mail addresses of many of the long-time members of FCCB who make the annual pilgrimage. It's a terrific opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other collectors, swap some stories, and learn some new things about our hobby. It's also a Great Time to try your hand at exhibiting! Whether you're a long-time collector, or just getting started - Memphis provides a great venue for you to share some aspect of fractional collecting with other collectors. I've had the privilege of seeing some very fine exhibits on some unique aspects of fractional currency that I had never considered. So it's always an education to attend this show. So as soon as you have an idea about your exhibit, contact FCCB member Martin Delger, who manages all the exhibits, to get your registration form...the cost is FREE! But just as important, don't forget...this is also when FCCB holds it's important annual meeting.

By chance did you overlook...

If you're as busy as I am, chances are at times things get set aside because they're not as high a priority as other things you have to address in the short term. Perhaps pulling-out the pre-addressed envelope and sending your annual FCCB Club dues was simply one of those things that's migrated to the bottom of your pile of paper work. If it has, won't you take a moment when you finish reading this issue of our newsletter, write-out your check to FCCB in the amount of \$15, place it in an envelope to our Treasurer, Dr. Wally Lee. His new address is shown in our membership list.

Until next time...

FCCB
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2818 Mountain Green Trail
Kingwood, TX 77345
(281) 361-8948
jfochtman@bradmark.com

Prez' Says **2006 is HERE!**

As always, I hope and wish for you all the best and hope you had a great Christmas holiday season and that 2006 is off to a great start for you. 2005 was such a GREAT year for our slice of the hobby with the O'Mara and Ford sales and many other exciting events that 2006 is going to have a hard time topping. But, it is already off to a great start.

While I did not attend the FUN show, the reports I have received are that it was its' usual great show. I have not heard of any finds, but I am sure there were some. The CAA auction had a lot of really nice notes in it, many from Tom's collection. I bid on a few of them and only got two. I got the second issue five-cent face experimental and the experimental negative essay that was #23 on Frossard's list! How cool—I now have two of Clark's notes!! I have really gotten into this experimental thing. I remember when I cajoled Milt into selling me one of his not so rare duplicates as my first one. Now I have 26! How many do you have? This is an exciting sub-stratum of our hobby that I really want to devote some time and effort to. Sounds like years of work and fun to me.

January also brings the second journal of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Paper Money that is dedicated to fractional. I have my author's copies and it is great! Eleven original articles on fractional! Many by our own members. And a newly discovered piece on Spinner that you won't want to miss. My thanks to all the authors, advertisers and to Fred Reed for this great magazine.

I do want to apologize to all of you for being slow. I promised after Tom's sale that I would pedigree the notes so we would not lose this important facet. I am still working on that. I have a whole new appreciation for Len, Martin and others who do this all the time. I had no idea it would be this hard. It is very, very time-consuming—and I don't have to hunt for the information!

I also want to urge you all to begin thinking about Memphis. June 16-18 are the dates for this years' International Paper Money Show presented by the Memphis Coin Club. I urge you to attend and to place an exhibit. We will be having our annual meeting and I look forward to seeing many of you there. As usual, we will have a raffle to raise a little dough—so DEALERS—CONSIDER THIS YOUR CALL FOR DONATIONS!! Also, we need a speaker. If you want to present our program, let me know. Also, if you have a topic you would like presented, let me know. I will be busy with my duties as SPMC President, so I cannot present the program, so I am asking one of you to step up to the plate.

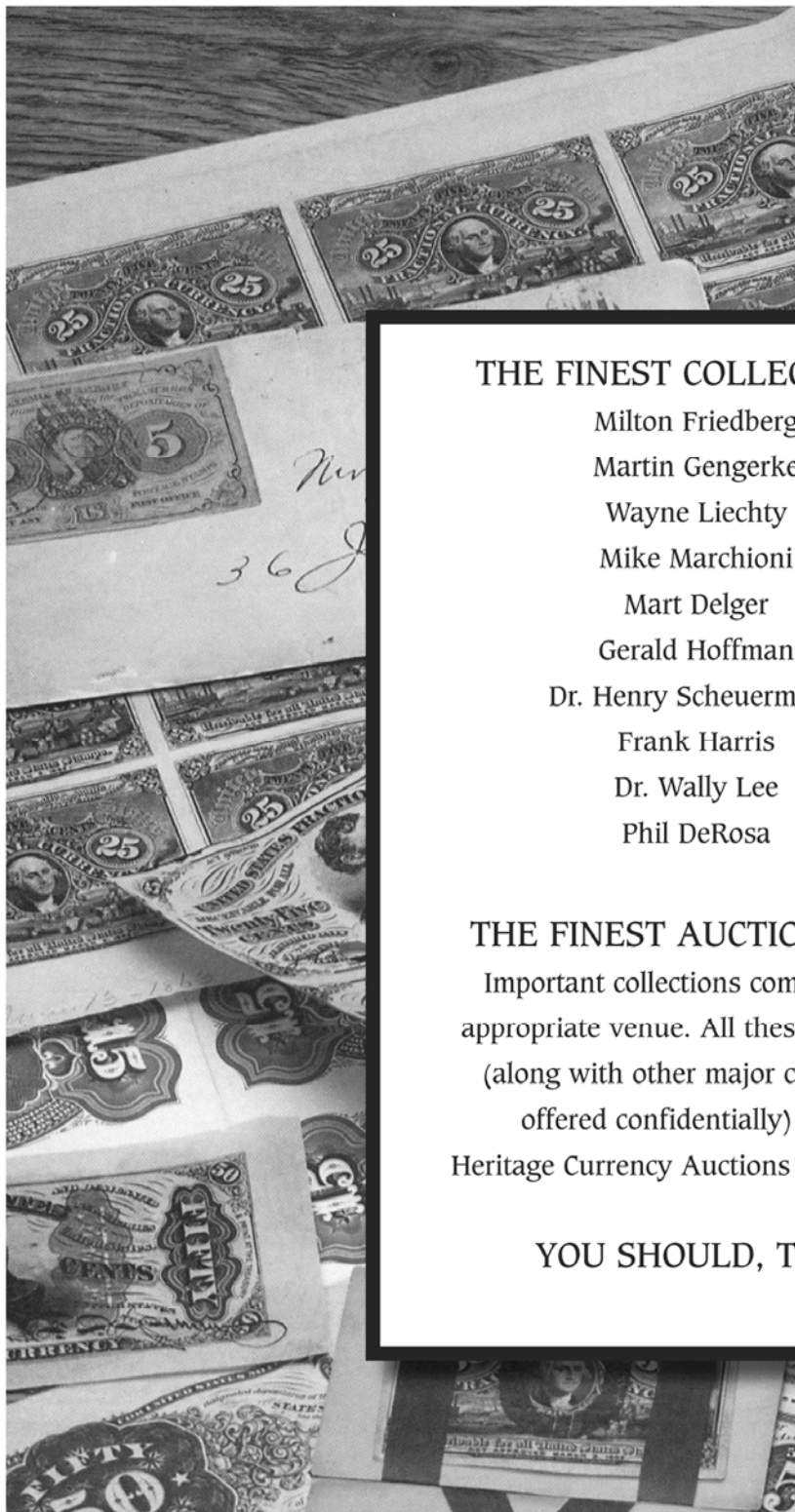
Also, consider placing an exhibit. The fractional exhibits are always great and there are great plaques for the winners. Contact Martin Delger, exhibit chair for an entry form. I will be back exhibiting this year with an exhibit on second issue T-1-18-63 notes. It would be near complete if a certain friend/dealer/member who loves Steak and Shake had not outbid me on the one main note of this series I need at Tom's sale. No hard feelings—just a lifetime of memory!

Until next edition—I bid you good collecting and fractionally satisfying days!

Fractionally,

Benny Bolin





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Strange Size Fesseden...?

By

John C. Ramsay

I suppose that I should start off by introducing myself to you all as I have never written an article for the FCCB or any other publication but do feel impelled to do so now.... My name is John C. Ramsay of Gardiner Maine. I am a collector of many notes but do get very excited in collecting Fractional notes and also Maine National Notes...

About two years ago in surfing the Internet on eBay I came across a fellow that was selling three FR-1297 notes in one lot. His feedback was not all that hot and I became suspicious of him in bidding on his notes... The notes went off with no bids... I decided to e-mail the fellow and he and I agreed to a price and I bought the notes after the auction... In his listing on eBay he listed the three notes as Two are a dry print and the third note as a wet print. This more than interested me in the notes and again I say that the note were purchased. The notes were listed as UNC and quite frankly when they arrived I was more than impressed that they were what he said that they were. The notes were quite crisp.

After examining the notes I found that the one that he listed as a "wet print" was a very strange note. It appeared that it was longer than the other two notes. Yes, it was. After reading and extensive research I found that there were not any wet print notes in that era. Not being a Rob Kravitz, Len Glazer, Martin Gengerke or a few of other well known professionals I was dumb founded as to what I was looking at. I contacted a few others that had knowledge in this field but found myself getting nowhere...

After about two years of bewilderment as to what this note was I found the opportunity to attend the Chicago Paper Money Show... My Daughter lives in Chicago and I felt that it was a great time to visit her and also attend the show... At the show I showed this note to 4 or 5 well known Fractional note professionals and found that they were as confused to what they were looking at as much as I was. Names such as Len Glazier, Martin Gengerke etc... The only person not to see this note was Rob Kravitz as I believe that he did not attend the show.

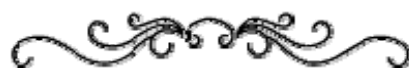
I happen to have bought another note on eBay and after paying for it VIA Paypal I found that it was paid to Tom O'Mara. I emailed Tom and explained to him what I had and sent a scan to him.. He found this note interesting enough to refer it to Benny Bolin along with a couple of other notes that I had purchased from the Ford Collection... Obviously he responded to the Ford Collection notes as he was interested in documenting where these notes were as they are highly collectable notes and have a pedigree behind them...

The Fessenden notes were listed them on the back page of the FCCB (last Issue) unfortunately it was mentioned that the note was shorter than a normal 1297 and looked for impute on the shorter note... This was a mistake as the note is actually 1/8" LONGER than a normal FR-1297 as others have seen. I seem to be going nowhere with an explanation of what this note is.. Some think that I am trying to make sure that this note will be worth a lot of money as a rarity but quite frankly I would just be very happy if someone could please explain what I have in my possession in this STRANGE FR-1297 note that is 1/8" longer than any other FR-1297. Please help.





The above show same size notes with different size engravings, while the following illustration shows a longer size paper as well.



JAMES POLIS

IS ACTIVELY BUYING AND SELLING FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

I am one of the strongest buyers in this field. Take a look at any major auction or show at who is buying fractionals in all grades and you will usually hear my name. Please call or send me your notes for a fair and expedient offer. I am passionately looking for all scarcer varieties as well as Choice-Gem Uncirculated Type Notes for my customers.

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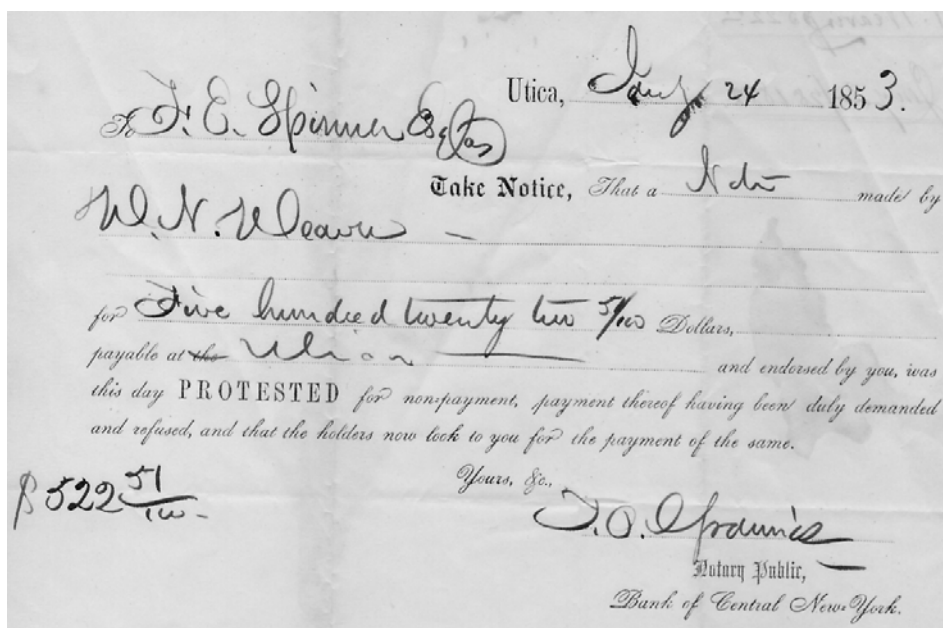
"To" not "From"

By

Benny Bolin

One of the fractional related areas many of us collect are the autographs, CDVs, vignettes, etc of the men who are on fractional or had roles in developing/issuing these notes. Of course, the hardest part is getting the autographs of the Presidents, Lincoln, Washington, Grant, etc. But, another area that has come to my attention of late are letters, envelopes, etc TO these men. I wanted to share a few with you and encourage you to look for these and collect them as well. Let me know what you have and we can publish a list! I am sure these will not reproduce as well as I would like, but I think you can get the gist of them.

Letter TO Spinner: I have three of these, all from his time as cashier in Mohawk.



A second protest letter related to a counterfeit note.

J. Thompson's Banking and Exchange Office,
64 Wall Street, New-York, *July 18* 1851

J. E. Spruner Esq Cash.

Dear Sir

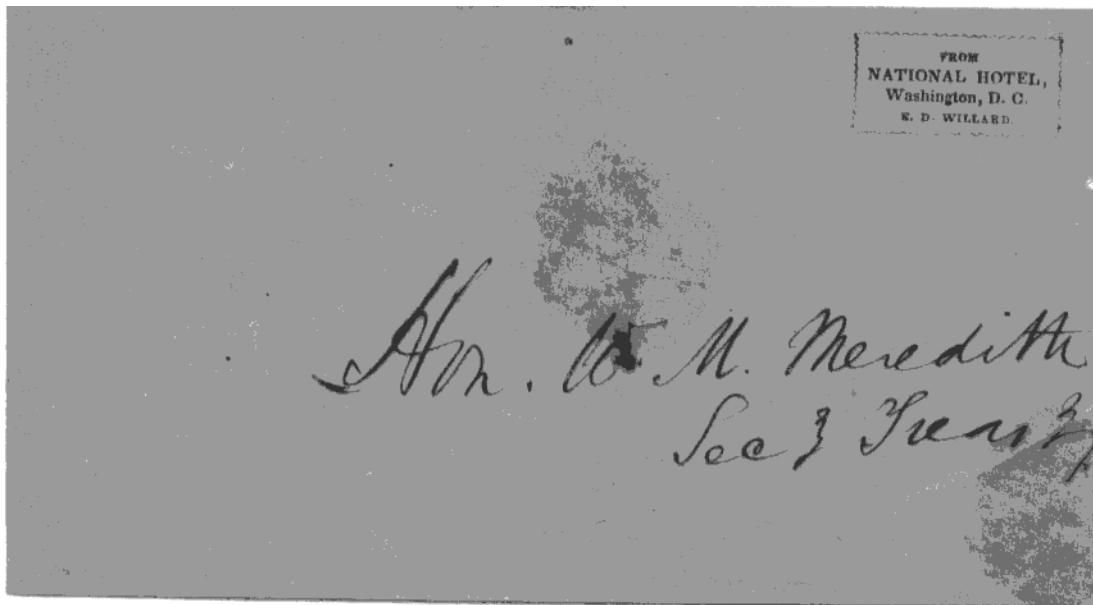
Your favor of 16th
inst enclosing 13 counterfit is recd. please accept
my thanks for your kindness, trouble

Letter TO Stanton: This letter was written to Stanton by a seemingly impatient individual who wanted a job in the government and wanted his endorsement. It seems he had written Stanton before and was wanting a quicker response.

Troy, N. Y. Jan'y 14th 1862
Honl. Edwin M. Stanton
Secretary of War, of the U. States.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir; Your kind letter of the 2nd Nov^r last, in response to mine of the 8th Aug^t 1861, was duly received and acknowledged by me, on the 6th of Nov^r. Not hearing from you, I wrote you again on the 28th of last month, soliciting some position, if in your power to secure one for me.

Envelope TO Wm. Meredith: I have two of these. Unlike the Walker envelopes, these are true envelopes and not hand made. This one is from an individual staying at the National hotel in Washington DC. One can only wonder what kind of content the letter held.



Letter TO Fessenden: This letter was a request to have the author's regiment reassigned to the Northern Frontier.

Adad Quarus 13th N. A. N. Y. Volunteers
Fort Haskell near Pulsonmouth 7th

My dear Fessenden

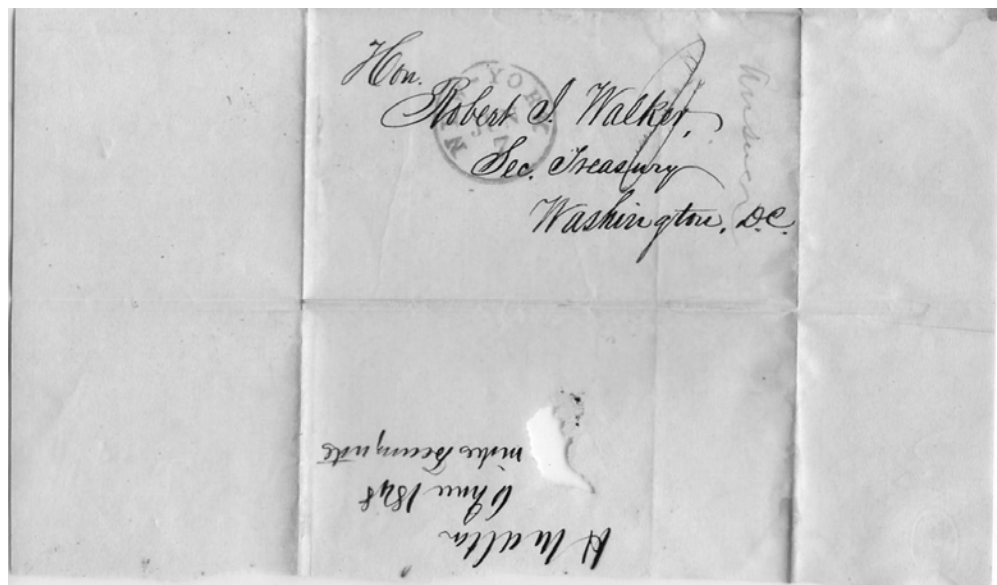
December 17. 1864.

I desire to have my Regiment ordered to the Northern Frontier. The 3rd Battalion 75th Army are Seamen Ordinary Seamen, Boatmen, many of them from the Lakes, this composition of force is absolutely necessary to the service required on the Frontier - again it will be found necessary hereafter, to have a Coast Guard connected with and under the command of the Treasury Department. To meet this contingency and not sever myself from the Revenue Marine. I organized the Marine Artillery and when I organized this Regiment I obtained permission to make the 3rd a Marine Battalion to that end. The changes in our commercial relations with Canada, will require without doubt, a very strong force to protect the Revenue. Cannot I do it?

Fessenden Tax Receipt: One of the neatest pieces I literally fell upon is this receipt for taxes that Fessenden paid in Maine in 1843.

	No.		STATE OF MAINE.	
	Treasurer's Office, Augusta, Sept. 6 1843.			
	Received from		W. D. Fessenden	
			Eleven Dollars ⁹⁷ / ₁₀₀	
	in for ³ / ₄ of State Tax for the year 1843, on Township No. 5 Range 4 County of Arrostook			
		Wm. Caldwell for La. White		Treasurer.

Envelope TO R.J. Walker: I have four of these. These were the early envelopes that were hand made from a full sheet of paper.



Envelope TO McCulloch: This is the only item in my collection TO McCulloch.



Member's Trading Post

<p>Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Collection Effort.</p> <p>Jerry Fochtman jfochtman@bradmark.com 713/513-9309</p>	<p>Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326.</p> <p>Thanks – Rick Melamed.</p>	<p>Wanted: FR1374 (Lincoln) Counterfeits notes, scans,clippings, info, etc. for upcoming Lincoln currency book.</p> <p>Fred Reed (FCCB #55) Freed3@airmail.net P.O.B 118162 Carrollton, TX 75011</p>
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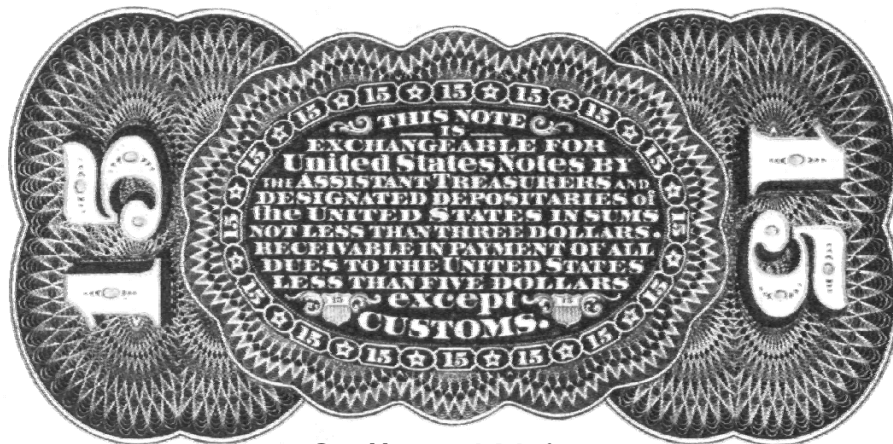
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Look At Your Notes Carefully

You Never Know What Treasures lay Hidden!

By

Benny Bolin

In the last edition of the FCCB News, I told you of a note I had recently gotten in the CAA St. Louis Auction. It was a second issue twenty-five cent experimental with great writing on the back. I could not attribute it to a number exactly and said I would get back with you. Well, it sometimes pays to look at your notes before making rash judgments.

I have always been so amazed with the many treasures Mike Marchioni finds at shows. He does it by simply looking at the whole note and not just one aspect of it. This note was no exception to that rule. I was reminded of the time about 12 years ago at Memphis when I went through a dealers stock and found a third-issue ten-cent note that I knew something was wrong with. A few hours later Doug Hales came and grabbed me and very excitedly showed me that same note—it had front and back surcharges inverted!!! Oh had I paid more attention to details!

In this case, I was fortunate enough to get the note, but did not know what I had until a week or so after the newsletter was published, one of our members contacted me and told me he was the underbidder on the note and had studied it extensively. As it turns out, it is Milton#2E25F.8. You won't find that number in the regular encyclopedia, you have to go to the updated FCCB version. It is actually progress proof. As you can see from the scan below, the circles that the "25" are in are unfinished as are their frames. I was so enamored with the writing on the back that I totally overlooked this aspect of the note. Based on the writing on the back, "*The first impression from plate taken March 1863,*" and the fact that the second issue was first issued in October 1863, this could truly be one of the very first second-issue notes printed.

So, take it from one who has done it twice, look at the whole note and then focus on what attracts you to it. Happy Hunting!!!

